

DOCKET: CU-2651

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE:

APPLICANT: Bard LOTVEIT)
SERIAL NO: 09/937,591)
FILED: September 27, 2001) Group Art Unit: 1733
TITLE: A GLIDING PREVENTER FOR VEHICLE WHEELS) Examiner: Steven D. Maki

THE COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

AMENDED CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A device to be fitted on a vehicle wheel of a predetermined size having an outer circumference and inner and outer side surfaces, in order to increase the friction between the wheel and the road surface during winter conditions, the device comprising:

a belt an endless annular belt made substantially from textile material and intended to encircle the tread outer circumference of the wheel; and be held in place by means of flexible inner and outer side portions which, at least on the inner side of the wheel, is tightened by means of an elastic member, and the internal circumference of the belt is at least 4% larger than the largest circumference of the wheel.

a flexible inner side portion, having an elastic member, which is tightened against the inner side surface of the wheel by the elastic member when the device is fitted on the wheel; and

a flexible outer side portion which is disposed against the outer side surface of the wheel when the device is fitted on the wheel, and prevents entire device from passing over to the inner side surface of the wheel.

2. (currently amended) A device according to Claim 1, wherein the an internal circumference of the belt is 4-10%, larger 4-10% larger than the largest outer circumference of the wheel.

3. (cancelled)

4. (currently amended) A device according to Claim 1, wherein the outer side portion of the device is designed to cover substantially the outer side surface of the wheel.

5. (currently amended) A device according to Claim 4, wherein the outer side portion of the device is made of a netting material, ~~the material being a PVC coated 1100 dtex polyester multifilament material having a netting opening of 2.7mm.~~

6. (currently amended) A device according to ~~Claim 3~~ Claim 1, wherein the outer side portion of the device has at least one opening, the largest circumference of said opening being less than 2.2 times the largest diameter of the wheel.

7. (currently amended) A device according to Claim 1, wherein the outer side portion of the device is provided with radially extending straps.

8. (currently amended) A device according to Claim 1, wherein said elastic member comprises a rubber-elastic material which is covered by spinning about it, or is a spun, woven or knitted together with, a substantially inelastic thread material, said thread material limiting the extensibility of said elastic member.

9. (cancelled)

10. (currently amended) A device according to ~~Claim 9~~ Claim 1, wherein said textile material is a woven polyamide.

11. (currently amended) A device according to ~~Claim 9~~ Claim 1, wherein the belt comprises two layers of textile material, one side of which is each layer being coated with a suitable plastic, the two layers being arranged so that the plastic coatings contact one another.

12. (currently amended) A device according to Claim 1, wherein the belt is of a multilayer construction, the outer surface comprising polyester multifilament yarn oriented crosswise to the circumferential direction of the belt, ~~the layer construction pattern preferably being 4-shed broken twill.~~
13. (original) A device according to Claim 12, wherein the polyester multifilament yarn has a fineness of about 1100 dtex.
14. (original) A device according to Claim 11, wherein the inner layer of the multilayer construction is a different color than that of the outer layer.
15. (original) A device according to Claim 14, wherein the layers are made of a polyester or polyamide multifilament material.
16. (original) A device according to Claim 14, wherein the outer and inner layers are interconnected by a common yarn system in said circumferential direction.
17. (original) A device according to Claim 16, wherein the said common yarn system is made of a polyester multifilament having a fineness of about 1100 dtex.
18. (currently amended) A device according to Claim 1, wherein the inside of the inner side portion of the device is coated by a low friction coating.
19. (currently amended) A device according to Claim 18, wherein said low friction coating is one selected from the group consisting of: silicon polymer, butadiene rubber, neoprene rubber, and PVC, ~~or a similar polymer.~~
20. (currently amended) A method for fitting a device on a vehicle wheel, resting against a road surface, to increase the friction between the wheel and the road surface during winter conditions, comprising the steps of:

providing a device comprising a belt made substantially from textile material and intended to encircle the tread of the wheel and be held in place by means of flexible inner and outer side portions which, at least on the inside of the wheel, is tensioned by means of an elastic member a belt an endless annular belt made substantially from textile material and intended to encircle the tread outer circumference of the wheel; and be held in place by means of flexible inner and outer side portions which, at least on the inner side of the wheel, is tightened by means of an elastic member, and the internal circumference of the belt is at least 4% larger than the largest circumference of the wheel an endless annular belt made substantially from textile material and intended to encircle the outer circumference of the wheel; a flexible inner side portion, having an elastic member, which is tightened against the inner side surface of the wheel by the elastic member when the device is fitted on the wheel; and a flexible outer side portion which is disposed against the outer side surface of the wheel when the device is fitted on the wheel, and prevents entire device from passing over to the inner side surface of the wheel;

fitting the inner side portion of the device over the tread outer circumference of the wheel to the inside inner side surface of the wheel along at least two thirds of the circumference of the wheel, along as much as possible of that part of the outer circumference which does not rest against the road surface; and

rotating the wheel by means of the vehicle, whereby the remaining part of the inner side portion of the device moves over the outer circumference of the wheel to assume its place fit on the inside inner side surface of the wheel and pulls the belt in place along the tread outer circumference of the wheel.

21. (new) A device according to Claim 5, wherein the netting material is a PVC coated 1100 dtex polyester multifilament material having a netting opening of 2-7mm.